



Childhood Connections

September 1, 2021

## Welcome to the Office of Childhood!

The Office of Childhood is officially here! We've been waiting all year for this moment and we're excited to be sharing it with you. From all of us at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), we want to *Thank You* for your patience and encouragement during this transition.



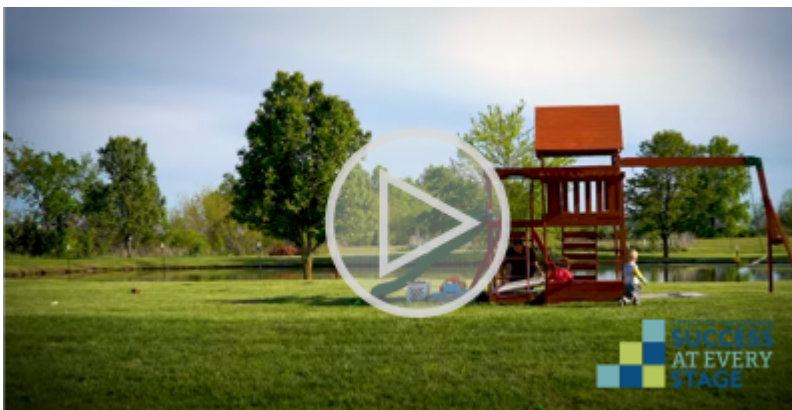
We also want to welcome you to our first edition of Childhood Connections, a monthly e-newsletter from the Office of Childhood. As a subscriber, you will have access to new announcements, important reminders, and other news from our office. We welcome your feedback, comments, and any suggestions for topics you'd like to see in future newsletters. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you can Unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of this page.

For those of you who we work with regularly, *Thank You* for the great work you do to help children and families across Missouri!

We are honored to be part of this effort and look forward to working with you in the Office of Childhood.

Pam Thomas  
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

## The Why Behind the Office of Childhood



Watch [this great video](#), courtesy of the Missouri Zero to Three Building Strong Foundations for



### New Contact Information

The new DESE Office of Childhood website is live! Visit the [website](#) to learn more about childhood programs and find our updated contact information. Make sure to update your bookmarks, as the links

Families project, to understand the importance of this new office.

### Child Care Subsidy Providers - Child Absences

Due to the increasing number of COVID absences, from September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, the Office of Childhood will pay for additional absences through your typical monthly subsidy payment. Providers will need to enter child(ren) as absent in the CCBIS system for any day they are not in attendance. All absences will be paid for children enrolled in the child care subsidy program through the end of the year.

### Changes to Background Screening

The [background screening process](#) for child care providers has changed. Any licensed, license-exempt, or registered child care provider, employee, or prospective employee fingerprinted on or after August 28, 2021 must use this new Missouri Automated Criminal History System (MACHS) registration code: **8897**.

### Funding Opportunity for Child Care Providers



In July 2021, DESE initiated the rollout of \$185 million in Child Care Relief Funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act. Missouri's CRRSA Spend Plan outlined 14 activities to support families in need of child care and child care providers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Five of these activities are currently open for child care providers to [apply online](#). These funding opportunities are available to subsidy and non-subsidy providers.

to these webpages have changed.

### What We Do

Each section in the Office of Childhood plays an important role in ensuring all Missouri's children are safe, healthy, and successful learners. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about each section in the Office.

### Save the Date

DESE hosts an annual Conference on the Young Years (CYY) that provides professional development opportunities to all professionals who serve children birth to third grade. CYY will be held virtually on March 10-11, 2022 and at no cost to participants. We will share more details about this event on [our website](#) and in future editions of Childhood Connections.

### Rule Amendments

The Regulations Section is working on rule amendments to update terminology to coincide with the transition of the Department of Health and Senior Services, Section for Child Care Regulation, to the DESE Office of Childhood. Please note that none of these changes will affect the day-to-day practices of child care providers or DESE staff. We will share more details

## Training Opportunities



[Missouri Milestones Matter Fall 2021 training](#) is open to all professionals working in early childhood programs. This online training is worth two clock hours through the Missouri Workshop Calendar. Learn how to monitor developmental milestones and use the CDC Learn the Signs Act Early materials to talk to families about their child's development.

## Afterschool Grants Awarded

DESE awarded continuation grants for the 2021-22 school year for the 21st Century Community Learning programs and School Age Community federally funded afterschool programs. Afterschool programs continue to be a resource to help children and families adapt to the challenging circumstances created by the pandemic. Learn more about the importance of afterschool programs on [our website](#).

## Lights on Afterschool Day!

The 22nd national Lights On Afterschool day will be held this year on October 28. We are excited to participate in the event, this is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. For more information about this event, please go to [Lights On Afterschool](#).

about these amendments in the next edition of Childhood Connections.

## Home Visiting Stakeholder Group

Over the past several months, the Home Visiting Section has been meeting with a stakeholder group comprised of school district Parents as Teachers (PAT) staff, PAT National Center staff, early intervention staff, and representatives from multiple home visiting programs. This stakeholder group is assisting the Office in developing a plan to coordinate and enhance home visiting services for Missouri's families. The goal for this group is to increase developmental screenings and parent education activities for families with young children.



### **PAT Training**

The Office of Childhood Home Visiting Section is collaborating with the PAT National Center to host Foundational and Foundational 2 training opportunities for Missouri school districts to help support curriculum training requirements. Missouri PAT staff in school districts will receive an email from DESE with links to access this training.

### **DESE Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants**

DESE recently announced the use of funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to establish teacher recruitment and retention grants for local education agencies (LEAs) and teacher education programs. Online applications are now available for LEAs to apply for these teacher recruitment and teacher retention grants. Applications are available for early childhood/preschool teachers and K-12 teachers. Application information can be found in the [Recruitment and Retention Grants section here](#), or by selecting the following links:

- [NEW! Online Application for Teacher Recruitment \(Grow Your Own\) Grants \(for LEAs\)](#)
- [NEW! Online Application for Teacher Retention Grants \(for LEAs\)](#)

Please email [educatorquality@dese.mo.gov](mailto:educatorquality@dese.mo.gov) with any questions.

### **Spotlight on Success**





Courtesy of Kirksville R-III Schools

In the Kirksville R-III School District, their Early Childhood Learning Center works with Head Start in order to provide a comprehensive and developmentally appropriate start for all children in the community. The center provides support within Head Start, including developmental screenings as well as Early Childhood Special Education and School-Based Social Work services and various professional development. The goal in partnering with Head Start is to help children remain in Head Start. The school also provides transportation back and forth from their early learning center and Head Start so children can benefit from a longer preschool experience when attending both programs, which has been very beneficial to working families. Kirksville school staff said “we love that there is no competition between the programs and it truly is a relationship focused on what is best for the children in our community!”

### Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

**Save the Date-Mark Your Calendars Now!**

You are invited to learn more and ask questions about this work. The next PDG B-5 Stakeholder Webinar will be Tuesday, September 28, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. You can [view the webinar](#) in Chrome or Safari, do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can join us!

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email [civilrights@dese.mo.gov](mailto:civilrights@dese.mo.gov).



DESE Office of Childhood | 205 Jefferson Street - 1st Floor | Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Report Spam](#)